

out there that enables them to move ahead on the ideas that they are ready to move on. Several people have talked about the Highway Trust Funds and although I would still argue that those monies belong to education in the first place, I want to reiterate that I have said from the beginning, both to the Education Committee and again to all of you this morning, I'm looking for any way to fund this because I think it's such a worthy and significant thing that we need to do. We need to stop putting this off. We have to quit saying, let's form a group and come up with this comprehensive plan. The knowledge is there. We need to do what needs to be done and we need to get moving on it. We've sat on it too long. In terms of renovation, a couple of my friends are particularly innovative and I'll ask the Pages right now to pass out something. They said, Senator, if you can't get the Highway Trust monies, we're going to sell these sweatshirts here and all the proceeds will go to the Excellence in Education Trust Fund. I want you to know that I was raised by a man who said, you don't judge whether or not you're going to do something on the basis of whether or not you think you can get it done. You do it on the basis of whether or not it's right and it needs to be done. This needs to be done and I'm willing to do just about anything in order to accomplish it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, I was going to call the question, but a couple of things Senator Warner said I think need a little bit of a response, particularly if he interpreted some of the debate here on the floor as if there was a ruse that went on last year when 1059 passed, at least as one of the major sponsors of 1059, there certainly wasn't. There was not consideration given to the bill, in drafting of the bill, as to whether the Highway Trust Fund money, the sales tax money should go in the Highway Trust Fund or whether it shouldn't. We recommended...implementing an additional sales tax. When it came to our attention in that it was one of the things we hadn't considered was the placement of the money in the Highway Trust Fund, our thoughts at that time were that's a battle we don't particularly want to fight at this time. I supported leaving the money in the Highway Trust Fund last time. It was not a ruse, it was not an attempt to assure 30 votes, it was not let's wait and bring this up next year or any of those kind of things that may have been thought but, frankly, times have changed since then. A couple of things have happened.